



Dear Alturas Rotary Members!

I can't believe August is three quarters gone. Summer always goes so quickly. I am officially retired now and enjoying my time so much. So far, I have gone camping twice, rode horses in the Warner Mountains during both camp trips, visited my oldest daughter in Reno and again rode horses, plus went boating on Lake Tahoe – so beautiful! And last week I went on a two-night backpacking trip with friends from Red Bluff. We hiked into Patterson for one night and stayed one night by Snake Lake in Pine Creek Basin. It was so peaceful and gorgeous - I am hooked. I am definitely loving the retired life.

As for Rotary – We finished up a VERY busy July and I think it went quite well. During August we decided on our scholarship recipients, who are very deserving. I just have to say that the quality of the applicants was outstanding. I believe our scoring system, and having six Rotarians use the rubric to score each application, made it much easier to decide our winners. We decided as a committee to review the process to make it better next year, but I am very confident that the individuals we chose are going great places in the future.

We have also worked with Jim and Elizabeth Cavasso and the Niles to revamp our lunch order and payment system for our meetings starting September 9th. The members will have a choice of 4 lunch menu items and will pay the Niles directly for their lunch (with tip please). We will not be required to pay the mandatory \$15 per week (whether you attend or not) from that date forward. We are hoping this will help our members with the costs of being a Rotarian, making it more affordable to attract new members. This is a trial, so please let us know what you think and if improvements can be made. Contact me or Jim Cavasso if you have questions.

At the last meeting on August 19th, I honored Timi Blankenship with Rotarian of the Month for July. Her organizational skills and helpfulness during the Jim Wills Invitational Golf Tournament shined. She kept us all in line and had everything ready to go ahead of time,



which was awesome! I really appreciate all of her work and dedication that made the day run so smoothly. And, by the way, we netted \$7,313.00 on this fundraiser! Thanks to all of the members who participated in one way or another to make this event a success.

Future events coming up are:

September 4th at 7:30am – tour of the new Skilled Nursing Facility at the hospital with Ed Johnson and the Sunrise group.

September 6th at 10:00am – Clean up at Pine Creek Reservoir for Community Service Project

Week of September 22nd – there will be no meeting on Tuesday 9/23, we will be having a social activity instead (details coming soon).

October 1st 5:00-7:00 – Community Carnival hosted by Modoc County Office of Education. We are donating 4 raffle basket items – two for younger ages and two backpacks filled with fun items for older kids. If you think or have any items to donate to this cause, please bring it to our next meeting or let Dianna or I know what you have in mind. We will also be donating the leftover hot dogs from the Fish Derby to the event.

October 4th – Fall Bingo – Gail is the committee chair on this, details coming soon.

In closing, I am surprised at how fast the first two months of my presidency have flown by. Let's keep going strong and having FUN!!

Cheers,
Cheryl





The Rotary Clubs of Alturas hosted **Governor Larry Harvey** on July 15 & 16. The purpose of his visit was to learn about each Club's priorities and plans, provide support and resources, and to challenge the Clubs with ideas for improvement. The meetings are intended to provide the opportunity for the Clubs to share successes, as well as discuss areas where the Clubs may desire input or assistance.

We all had a great visit with Governor Larry, and President Cheryl hosted a nice evening meal at her house for everyone to relax and socialize.

Governor Larry made presentations for the Quiet Rotarian Award and the Dream Maker Award.

The Quiet Rotarian Award was given to Dick Read. Dick is always one of the first to volunteer. He is always cheerful, has great stories, but never wants to be in charge. He has helped "behind the scenes" so many times - the Duck Race Dam, the batting cage project, many fundraisers and service projects. He has served as dual secretary for many years, keeping track of attendance and always attending the Board meetings. And Dick's great service after our weekly meetings involves putting away the box of badges, Rotary banners, and the meeting podium and bell. Most of all - we appreciate Dick for his reliability. If he says he will do something, he follows through and communicates results. Thanks Dick!

The **Dream Maker Award** is for a member who played a significant role in the successful completion of a program or project for the club. **This award was given to Mike Mason.** Mike came to the Club last winter with the idea of resurrecting the Great Rotary Duck Race. Many were skeptical and a little resistant to the idea, thinking we already had enough activities planned. But Mike was persistent, inspired us, and with the help of Joe Catania from Sunrise Rotary, we jumped in. It was a great event. The community was so excited for it, and were buying tickets before the coupon books were even ready. Out two Rotary Clubs came together and melded well. The Duck Race was a great success, earning both of our Clubs some funds to work on some larger projects in the Community. Kudos to Mike!



August 12 - PDG Alan Cain and AG Walt Davis introduced Lynn Culp from the Faith Bible Church and their guest **from Tanzania - Emanuel Nkwamu.**

Tanzania is where the amazing Serengeti Plain and Mt. Kilimanjaro are located. They speak Swahili and English in Tanzania. Emanuel is in America for a global leadership conference in Chicago and will also visit Seattle, Washington.

in the last 17 years, Emanuel has helped to establish 4,261 Awana Clubs in Tanzania, reaching 700,000 children each week. Some of these children are orphans. They also train leaders in ministry outreach.

Emanuel is married and has 5 children, ages 6 to 23.

August 5 - **Jennifer Engel from the Modoc Historical Society** shared news. They are well known for the many years of wonderful journals so popular among Modoc residents! These journals share great stories of Modoc families, events, and information like what Main Street used to look like.

She encouraged Rotary to share its history.

The Historical Society has between 250 - 300 members. And meetings are always open to all.

Joan Barclay handles their media outreach.



Rotary Club of Alturas 2025 Scholarship Recipients

**Megan Nelson
Max Blankenship
Maggie Blankenship
Savannah French Connors**



Megan Nelson is from Alturas CA. Her parents are Jodee and Jack Nelson also from Alturas, CA. Megan attended Modoc High School (MHS) and graduated in 2022. In high school she started taking classes through College of the Siskiyous, invited to be in the California Scholarship Federation, and graduated as the 2022 MHS Salutatorian. She currently attends Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT), is a senior, and her major field of study is Dental Hygiene. Her GPA at OIT is 3.89.



Megan has worked continuously through college to fund her own college education. She works for the OIT Campus Activities Board, Running Y Fitness Center, & the OIT Dental Hygiene Clinic. She was one of 12 students in the US attend a collegiate conference with the American Red Cross. As a Collegiate Ambassador, she is responsible for holding two blood drives per year on her college campus. Megan is also traveling with other dental students to Jamaica for two weeks in August to provide dental care as part of the OIT Dental Hygiene International Externship Program. This scholarship is important to her education and goal of aiding underserved populations. She plans to work in public health creating access to dental care for those who need it most.

Megan received a Rotary Club of Alturas Scholarship for \$2500 in 2024, and this year's scholarship for \$2500.

Max Blankenship is from Alturas CA. His parents are Timmarie and Jim Blankenship also from Alturas, CA. Max attended Modoc High School for 9th and 10th grades. He transferred to the Mt. Lassen Charter School for Grades 11 and 12 and took classes from the College of the Siskiyou during this time. He graduated in 2022 and attended Allan Hancock Community College in Santa Maria, CA, earning a multitude of AA degrees - in Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics and Liberal Arts. In Fall 2025 he will attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to obtain a degree in Electrical Engineering. He currently has a 3.94 GPA.



For the last year, Max has worked as a tutor for 30 students taking integral calculus. Not only was it a job, but the experience kept him sharp in his circuit analysis class. It also helped him grow in communication skills. Max also helped with the Astronomy Club (and built a telescope!), and participated on the college soccer team at Allan Hancock College. Max was also able to do an internship with Pacific Coast Oil Company, working with their engineering projects team. Max was a wonderful speaker at a recent Rotary Club of Alturas meeting where he shared his educational and career story.

Max received a Rotary Club of Alturas Scholarship for \$3500 in 2023, a scholarship for \$2500 in 2024, and this year's scholarship for \$2500.

Margaret Blankenship is from Alturas CA. Her parents are Timmarie and Jim Blankenship also from Alturas, CA. Maggie attended Mt Lassen Charter School and Modoc High School for 4 years, graduating in June 2024 as Salutatorian with a 3.96 GPA.



She also took classes from the College of the Siskiyou for college credits. She attended Allan Hancock Community College in Santa Maria, CA for her Spring semester, and will now attend the University of Nevada Reno this Fall. She was awarded the Western Undergrad Exchange Program which offsets out-of-state tuition.

Maggie's community service is wide-ranging. She helped to resurrect the Interact Club at Modoc High School, was awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award for starting the Cancer Car Show in Alturas, has helped with Rotary projects such as the Holiday Tea and Block M, and works at the Arrowhead Golf Course.

Savannah French-Connors is from Alturas CA. Her parents are Andria and Casey Cockrell also from Alturas, CA. Savannah attended Modoc High School for 4 years, graduating in June 2025 with a GPA of 3.75. She plans to attend Butte Community College in the Fall studying Business Management. She has been active in FFA since 2021, served as ASB President in her senior year, as well as being Rotary Interact President in 2025. She not only plays soccer but is also an AYSO referee.



Savannah has gained valuable work experience at Alturas Ranches and gained proficiency in Quickbooks. She would like to own her own business in the future.

Important Dates To Remember

August 5 - Scholarship Committee Meeting

August 11 - ARCF Meeting

August 12 - Scholarship presentation to Club

August 27 - First Day of School

September 4 - 7:15 AM - Tour of the New Skilled Nursing Facility. Meet in the lobby of the Hospital.

September 6 - 10 AM - Clean-up at Pine Creek Reservoir

September 9 - New Lunch ordering procedure at The Niles for Rotary lunch.

October 1 - Back to School Carnival

October 4 - FALL BINGO!

November 7 - District 5190 Foundation Dinner, Atlantis, Reno

2025-26 Program Facilitators

August 5 - Gail Eppler

August 12 - Fellowship (No Program)

August 19 - Kathy Delgado

August 26 - Dick Read - ASSEMBLY

September 2 - Elizabeth Cavasso

September 9 - Denise King

September 16 - Carol Sharp

September 26 - SOCIAL

September 30 - Walt Davis ASSEMBLY

October 7 - Mark Ross

October 14 - Fellowship (No Program)

October 21 - Dianna Bass

October 28 - Alan Cain - Assembly

Rotary
District 5190

"IT'S A BIG DEAL!"

Save the date for the
**2025 Rotary District 5190
Foundation Dinner**

Hosted by Area 8

Date: Friday, November 7th, 2025
Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, Reno, NV

Doors open at 6pm
Dinner at 7pm

Cost: \$60 per person

Join us as we celebrate
The Rotary Foundation

Registration opens September 15th

The Rotary Clubs in Action event is
Saturday, November 8 at Truckee
Meadows Community College. Consider
being dark that week and
encourage member participation in both
events



From your Newsletter Editor - Karen Shimamoto

Please let me know how I can include items in our newsletter of interest, fun, and amazement for you!